Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 10-17, 20, and add new claims 21-22 as follows:

1-9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A document processing system comprising:

an input [[means]] unit for reading an embedding medium a storing means on a hardcopy document;

a document processing information extracting [[means]] unit for extracting encoded document processing information embedded stored in the embedding medium storing means; and

a document processor processing means for executing document processing based upon the document processing information which includes at least one document handling procedure.

11.   (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the input [[means]] unit includes an image input means for reading a document image.

12.   (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the document processor processing means executes the document handling procedure by reading character strings [[stated]] on the document in accordance with the document processing information.

13.   (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the document is a bill for payment or a commercial paper.

14.   (Currently Amended) The document processing system, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

~~an embedding medium~~ <u>a storing means</u> identification [[means]] <u>unit</u> for identifying whether any ~~embedding medium embedded with~~ <u>storing means storing</u> the document processing information is on the document; and

document processing information database retrieving [[means]] <u>unit</u> for retrieving a set of document processing information from a document processing information database of a document provider so as to assign the set of document processing information to the document, if the ~~embedding medium~~ <u>storing means</u> identification [[means]] <u>unit</u> does not identify any ~~embedding medium embedded with~~ <u>storing means storing</u> the document processing information on the document.

15. (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 14, said database is stored in the document processing system or <u>is accessible via</u> [[in]] a network to which said document processing system is linked.

16. (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising a document processing information defining [[means]] <u>unit</u> for defining a new set of document processing information to be applied to the document if the retrieving [[means]] <u>unit</u> can not retrieve any set <u>of</u> document processing information in the database of the document provider.

17. (Currently Amended) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the set of document processing information is selected from the database based upon a degree of similarity between a document format associated with the set of document processing information and a document image entered through an image input [[means]] <u>unit</u>.

18. (Original) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the system notifies the document provider the newly-defined set of document processing information so as to be included in the database or to be embedded in other document by the document provider.

19. (Original) The document processing system as claimed in Claim 10, comprising a document processing charge billing means for differentiating charges billed to the document issuer according to whether document processing information is stored on the document.

20. (Currently Amended) A document generating software product, comprising:

a communication module for enabling a prospective document user wishing to have a document made to notify a document generator of requirements regarding a desired document layout and a desired document handling procedure;

a document layout making module for making a document layout according to the requirements from said prospective document user;

a document candidate presenting module for presenting to the prospective document user document candidates made by the document layout making module;

a document selecting module for letting the prospective document user select a document candidate out of the document candidates presented by the document candidate presenting module; [[and]]

a document processing information [[embedding]] determining module for determining enabling said document generator to embed a storing means for storing the encoded document processing information to be printed on or embedded in [[onto]] a hardcopy of the selected document candidate [[itself]]; and

a document processor for reading out the selected document candidate and for printing on or embedding the storing means on the hardcopy document.

21. (New) A software product for providing a hardcopy document comprising a module for printing on or embedding in the hardcopy document a storing means, wherein said storing means stores encoded information for document processing, and the hardcopy document is subject to and readable by a document processing apparatus for performing said document processing.

22.   (New) A hardcopy document having a storing means printed thereon or embedded therein that include encoded information of document processing for a hardcopy document, and the hardcopy document is readable by a document processing apparatus for performing said document processing.